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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Ecuador

25X1A6a

Liga del Fusil

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As a result of conflicting information indicating that the Liga del Fusil in Ecuador was both rightist and leftist in character, efforts were made to clarify this situation. The following information has been received on both its past and present activities:

- The Liga del Fusil was originally founded in the year 1939 by the late General Rivadeneira, under the guidance of the Italian Military Mission to Ecuador. The original purpose in forming this secret military society was to use it to promote Fascist sentiment within the Ecuadoran Army.
- Shortly after its organization the Ecuadoran Secretary for the Italian Military Mission, as well as a prominent Communist, informed the Communist Party in Ecuador of its plans and existence. The Communists succeeded in penetrating the organization to a large degree. The Fascist principles of the Liga were not too dissimilar to Communist principles, and thus the Liga took on a dual character of extreme left and extreme right. With the defeat of the Axis powers, the Liga lapsed into inactivity and was not revived until 1947.
- 3. The Communist Party renewed its infiltration and penetration of the Liga once again, using as its platform the theme of nationalismx and the welfare of the Army. Although it is not definitely established that the organization is Communist controlled, it is known that the Communists have a certain measure of control. The Communists plan to use the Liga in their Army penetration plan, particularly in their efforts to win over the rank and file.
- 4. The present program of the Liga is revolutionary in character and includes the following points:
  - Every soldier should have a right to earn a commission as a career officer. The Communists exploit this theme by pointing out that in the Soviet Army every soldier can aspire to be a general.
  - Noncommissioned officers and enlisted men should be entitled to a retirement pension after fifteen years as in the case of career officers. They presently have to serve twenty years before becoming eligible.
  - Noncommissioned officers and enlisted men should be entitled to extra pay

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allowances for each child, in addition to medical attention for their dependents, as is presently the case with officers.

- 5. The Liga has instructed all members to accumulate arms and ammunition and to store them with certain specifically designated members who are now retired from the Army. The Communists encourage this practice in the hope that they will have access to the arms if needed.
- 6. The Liga is a very secret society and imposes strict measures to enforce its security. The penalty for revealing the names of members and the activities of the society is said to be death for the violator. Considerable care is exercised in selecting new members, and the present actual strength of the Liga of fully pledged members is estimated at approximately 300. In addition, the Liga has about 700 prospective members who have to wait a certain period and meet certain requirements before becoming full-fledged members. The Liga is believed to have members in every unit of the Army throughout the country and to maintain communications through clandestine couriers. The compositions of its members for the most part consists of sergeants, corporals, and enlisted men as well as a large number of junior officers.

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